

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended) A system for manipulating a core body temperature of a mammal, the system comprising:

a chamber for enclosing a body portion of a mammal; said chamber comprising:

a base member;

a moveable member adapted to matingly engage said base member; and

a fastener adapted to maintain engagement of said base member with said moveable member, wherein the moveable member moves toward the base member to enclose the body portion in the chamber and the moveable member moves away from the base member to remove the body portion from the chamber;

a seal in operative association with said chamber for sealing said chamber around said body portion and for inhibiting movement of said body portion relative to said chamber when the system is in operation;

a thermal energy exchange system in operative association with said chamber, wherein said thermal energy exchange system comprises an energy element assembly coupled to a flexible membrane assembly, wherein said flexible membrane assembly facilitates an exchange of energy between said energy element assembly and said body portion; and

a vacuum system operatively associated with said chamber while said thermal energy exchange system is in operation, wherein said vacuum system generates a sub-atmospheric pressure within said chamber.

2. (original)

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein ~~said chamber comprises:~~ a the base member ~~having~~ has a first distal end and a first sealing surface; and a the moveable member ~~having~~ has a second distal end pivotally mounted to said first distal end and a second sealing surface which reciprocally contacts said first sealing surface to enclose said body portion within said chamber.

5. (canceled)

6-20. (original)

21-31. (canceled)

32 and 33. (original)

34. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a sleeve into which said body portion is inserted prior to ~~placement~~ enclosurement within said chamber.

35-39. (original)

40. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein ~~said chamber comprises:~~
a the base member ~~having~~ has a first side and a first sealing surface; and
a moveable member ~~having~~ has a second side pivotally mounted to said first side and a second sealing surface which reciprocally contacts said first sealing surface to enclose said body portion within said chamber.

41. (canceled)

42-44. (original)

45. (currently amended) A system for raising a core body temperature of a mammal, the system comprising:

a chamber for enclosing a body portion of a mammal; said chamber comprising:

a base member;

a moveable member adapted to matingly engage said base member; and

a fastener adapted to maintain engagement of said base member with said moveable member, wherein the moveable member moves toward the base member to enclose the body portion in the chamber and the moveable member moves away from the base member to remove the body portion from the chamber;

a pneumatic seal in operative association with said chamber for sealing said chamber around said body portion and for inhibiting movement of said body portion relative to said chamber;

a thermal energy exchange system in operative association with said chamber, wherein said thermal energy exchange system comprises a heating element assembly coupled to a flexible membrane assembly, wherein said flexible membrane assembly enhances a transfer of heat from said heating element assembly to said body portion; and

a vacuum system operatively associated with said chamber while said thermal energy exchange system is in operation, wherein said vacuum system cyclically generates a selected sub-atmospheric pressure within said chamber.

46. (original)

47. (canceled)

48. (currently amended) The system of claim 45, wherein ~~said chamber comprises a~~ the base member ~~having~~ has a first distal end and a first sealing surface; and a the moveable member ~~having~~ has a second distal end pivotally mounted to said first distal end and a second sealing surface which reciprocally contacts said first sealing surface to enclose said body portion within said chamber.

49. (canceled)

50-63. (original)

64-74. (canceled)

75-76. (original)

77. (currently amended) A system for lowering a core body temperature of a mammal, the system comprising:

a chamber for enclosing a body portion of a mammal; said chamber comprising:

a base member;

a moveable member adapted to matingly engage said base member; and

a fastener adapted to maintain engagement of said base member with said moveable member, wherein the moveable member moves toward the base member to enclose the body portion in the chamber and the moveable member moves away from the base member to remove the body portion from the chamber;

a pneumatic seal in operative association with said chamber for sealing said chamber around said body portion and for inhibiting movement of said body portion relative to said chamber;

a thermal energy exchange system in operative association with said chamber, wherein said thermal energy exchange system comprises a cooling element assembly coupled to a flexible membrane assembly, wherein said flexible membrane assembly enhances a transfer of heat from said body portion to said cooling element assembly; and

a vacuum system operatively associated with said chamber while said thermal energy exchange system is in operation, wherein said vacuum system generates a selected sub-atmospheric pressure within said chamber.

78. (original)

79. (canceled)

80. (currently amended) The system of claim 77, wherein ~~said chamber~~ comprises: a the base member having has a first distal end and a first sealing surface; and a the moveable member having has a second distal end pivotally mounted to said first distal end and a second sealing surface which reciprocally contacts said first sealing surface to enclose said body portion within said chamber.

81. (canceled)

82-92. (original)

93-100. (canceled)

101 and 102. (original)

103. (currently amended) A method for manipulating a core body temperature of a mammal, the method comprising the steps of:

enclosing a body portion of a mammal within a chamber; said chamber comprising:

a base member;

a moveable member adapted to matingly engage said base member; and

a fastener adapted to maintain engagement of said base member with said moveable member, wherein the moveable member moves toward the base

member to enclose the body portion in the chamber and the moveable member moves away from the base member to remove the body portion from the chamber;

sealing said chamber around said body portion and inhibiting movement of said body portion relative to said chamber;

generating a selected sub-atmospheric pressure within said chamber;

exposing said body portion to an energy element assembly; and

optimizing contact of said energy element assembly with said body portion via a flexible membrane assembly while generating said selected sub-atmospheric pressure to facilitate an exchange of thermal energy between said energy element assembly and a thermal core of said mammal.

104-112. (original)

113. (currently amended) A chamber for manipulating a core body temperature of a mammal, the chamber comprising:

a housing assembly configured to receive a body portion of a mammal;
said housing assembly comprising:

a base member;

a moveable member adapted to matingly engage said base member; and

a fastener adapted to maintain engagement of said base member with said moveable member, wherein the moveable member moves toward the base member to enclose the body portion in the chamber and the moveable member moves away from the base member to remove the body portion from the chamber;

a seal for sealing said housing assembly around said body portion and for inhibiting movement of said body portion relative to said housing assembly when the chamber is in operation;

an energy element assembly disposed within said housing assembly;

a flexible membrane assembly disposed proximate said energy element assembly, and

a vacuum assembly configured to effect a sub-atmospheric pressure within said housing assembly.

114 and 115 (canceled).

116-120. (original)